

Hamp
352.07
B478
1996

Annual Report

FOR THE TOWN OF

Benton

New Hampshire

Year Ending December 31
1996

Annual Report

FOR THE TOWN OF

Benton

New Hampshire

***Year Ending December 31
1996***

TOWN OF BENTON, NH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF TOWN OFFICERS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1996

INDEX

Benton Town Officers	5
Town Officers Telephone Numbers and Office Hours	6
Annual Town Meeting Warrant	7
Budget and Summary Analysis	9
Estimate of Revenue	10
Chief of Police's Report	11
Summary of Inventory Valuation	12
1996 Town Meeting Results	13
Comparative Statement of Appropriations & Expenditures...	16
Schedule of Non-Taxable Property	17
Report of the Town Clerk	18
Dog License Notice and Fees	19
Report of the Tax Collector	20
Report of the Treasurer	22
Road Report	24
Report of Town Forest Warden and State Forest Ranger	25
Detailed Statement of Payments	26
Selectmen's Report	29
F.E.M.A. Account	31
Vital Statistics	33
Annual Report of Benton School District	35

BENTON TOWN OFFICERS

		Term	Exp. Date
Board of Selectmen:	Marjorie L. Robitzer Stefan Cimikowski Albert Boutin, Jr.	3 yrs.	1997 1998 1999
Moderator:	Mark Elliott	2 yrs.	1998
Town Clerk:	Lyn Bandy	1 yr.	1997
Treasurer:	Paula Boutin	1 yr.	1997
Auditor:	Richard Dickenson	1 yr.	1997
Tax Collector:	Sharon Edwards	1 yr.	1997
Supervisors of the Checklist:	Sera Harris Doris Boutin (Appointed at the resignation of Jody Cole) Richard Saffo, Jr.	3 yrs.	1997 1998 1999
Surveyors of Wood & Lumber:	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	1 yr.	1997
Ballot Clerk:	Aaron Goodwin	1 yr.	1997
Ballot Inspector:	Kate Goodwin	1 yr.	1997
Trustees of the Trust Funds:	Jeff Elliott Justen Elliott Joseph Boutin, Jr.	3 yrs.	1997 1998 1999
Planning Board:	Jeff Elliott Sera Harris Ken Kealey Richard Saffo, Sr. Albert Boutin, Jr. (Ex officio member)	5 yrs.	1997 1998 1999 2000
Sexton:	William J. Harris		1997

BENTON TOWN OFFICERS
Telephone Numbers and Office Hours

		Phone No.
Board of Selectmen:	Marjorie L. Robitzer	787-6053
	Stefan Cimikowski	787-2389
	Albert Boutin, Jr.	787-6804
The Selectmen meet at the Benton Community Building on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 P.M.		
Moderator:	Mark Elliott	787-6013
Town Clerk:	Lyn Bandy	787-2324
The Town Clerk has office hours every Monday evening at the Community Building from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. (Phone 787-6541)		
Treasurer:	Paula Boutin	787-6232
Auditor:	Richard Dickenson	787-6486
Tax Collector:	Sharon Edwards	787-2324
Supervisors of the Checklist:	Sera Harris	787-6368
	Doris Boutin	787-6066
	Richard Saffo, Jr.	787-6523
Surveyors of Wood & Lumber:	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	787-6083
Ballot Clerk:	Aaron Goodwin	787-2505
Ballot Inspector:	Kate Goodwin	787-6695
Trustees of the Trust Funds:	Jeff Elliott	787-6181
	Justen Elliott	787-6681
	Joseph Boutin, Jr.	787-6083
Planning Board:	Jeff Elliott	787-6181
	Sera Harris	787-6368
	Ken Kealey	787-6084
	Richard Saffo, Sr.	787-6056
	Albert Boutin, Jr.	
	(Ex officio member)	787-6804
Road Agent:	Daniel Elliott	787-6189
Sexton:	William J. Harris	787-6368
Police Officer:	Stefan Cimikowski	787-2389

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
State of New Hampshire

Grafton, S.S.

Town of Benton

To the inhabitants of the Town of Benton qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Benton Community Building in said Benton on the second Tuesday of March next, the 11th, at seven o'clock in the evening to vote and act upon the following subjects:

- ARTICLE 1 To choose a town clerk, a treasurer, a tax collector, an auditor, a ballot clerk, a ballot inspector, a sexton and a surveyor of wood and lumber for the term of one year, a selectman, a supervisor of the checklist and a trustee of the trust funds for a term of three years and a member of the planning board for five years plus any other officers or agents necessary for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 2 To see if the town will vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed.
- ARTICLE 3 By petition. To see if the town will vote to prohibit the processing, storage and landspreading of wastewater treatment sludge/biosolids, including but not limited to, sewage, paper and pulp mill sludge, whether it be wet, dry composted, pelletized, mixed with other materials or injected on or into the land in the Town of Benton, for one year commencing on March 11, 1997.
- ARTICLE 4 By petition. To see if the town will vote to prohibit the processing, storage and landspreading of wastewater treatment sludge/biosolids, including but not limited to, sewage, paper and pulp mill sludge, whether it be wet, dry composted, pelletized, mixed with other materials or injected on or into the land in the Town of Benton until regulations are enacted by the town Selectmen with public involvement, to control such activity.
- ARTICLE 5 By petition. To see if the town will vote to prohibit the processing, storage and landspreading of wastewater treatment sludge/biosolids, including but not limited to, sewage, paper and pulp mill sludge, whether it be wet, dry composted, pelletized, mixed with other materials or injected on or into the land in the Town of Benton unless (1) the sludge is analyzed for arsenic, cadmium, ph, lead, mercury, nickel and dioxins, (2) the results of this analysis is filed with the town and (3) a description of the process to achieve Class A or Class B pathogen reduction requirements is filed with the town Selectmen.

- ARTICLE 6 To see if the town will vote to discontinue the "so-called" Sands Road into the Walter Stiebitz property on the south side of Tunnel Steam Road. (RSA 231:43)
- ARTICLE 7 To see if the town will vote to discontinue the "so-called" Joe Prue Road into the William and Andra House homestead off the north side of Mt. Mooselauke Highway, (Route 25). (RSA231:43)
- ARTICLE 8 To see if the town will vote to discontinue the "so-called" Old Page Road which runs in a westerly direction approximately 730 feet to the Haverhill town line form Page Road. (RSA 231:43)
- ARTICLE 9 Shall we modify the Elderly Exemptions for property tax in the Town of Benton, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers to be as follows:
 For a person of 65 years of age, up to 75. \$5,000; 75 years up to 80 year..... ; for a person over 80 years To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have net income of not more than \$13,400 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$20,400; and own assets not in excess of \$35,000, excluding the value of the person's residence. This must be a ballot vote.
- ARTICLE 10 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the CRF for Roads. The Selectmen recommend this article.
- ARTICLE 11 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,356 to replace that amount withdrawn from the CRF for Fires. These occurred during 1996. The Selectmen recommend this article.
- ARTICLE 12 To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$67,814 which represents the operating budget. Said sum does not include individual articles addressed. The Selectmen recommend this article.

A True Copy - Attest



Marjorie L. Robitzer



Stefan L. Cimikowski



Albert J. Boutin, Jr.

Selectmen of Benton

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Category	Approp. 96	Expend 96	Proposed 97
Selectmen & Expenses	\$1,400	\$1,349	\$1,400
Elections	2,400	1,657	600
Other Town Officers & Exp	3,900	4,173	3,500
Legal	500	188	2,000
Planning & Zoning	200		200
Community Building	1,800	1,837	1,800
Cemeteries	550	533	580
Insurance	2,850	3,398	3,000
Adv. & Regional Assns.	850	795	850
Police Protection	2,550	2,544	1,995
Ambulance	1,768	1,768	1,768
Fire Protection	2,500	2,500	2,500
Flood Repairs - (F.E.M.A.)	10,658	10,653	
Regular Road Budget	35,000	33,825	35,000
BLAKTOP - Repaving	70,000	67,755	
Welfare	1,450	950	1,450
Long-term Loan - \$27,000			9,000
Interest			571
Interest on TAN's	1,500	1,337	1,600
To CRF - Roads	5,000	5,000	
	\$144,876	\$140,262	\$67,814
Additional Warrant Articles			
To bring Fire CRF			
up to \$3,500.			1,356
CRF for Roads			10,000
			\$79,170
Estimated Revenue - 1997			\$72,646

BUDGET AND SUMMARY ANALYSIS
Estimate of Revenue

Sources of Revenue:	Est. 1996	Rec. 1996	Est. 1997
Yield Taxes	\$9,800	\$10,843	\$9,500
Interest & Penalties on on delinquent taxes	\$4,500	\$6,378	\$5,500
Payment in lieu of taxes White Mt. National Forest	\$16,900	\$16,962	\$16,000
Motor Vehicle Registrations	\$19,000	\$22,155	\$21,000
Building permits, other licenses, permits & fees	\$800	\$1,062	\$800
State of New Hampshire:			
Shared Revenue	\$3,951	\$5,691	\$5,000
Rooms & Meals Dist.	\$4,000	\$2,574	\$2,500
Highway Bloc Grant	\$9,565	\$9,565	\$10,438
F.E.M.A.	\$10,658	\$10,658	
Income from Trust Funds	\$207	\$207	\$308
Donations and Fines		\$689	\$500
Interest on Deposits	\$1,000	\$1,221	\$1,100
Capital Reserve Fund - Roads	\$40,000	\$40,000	
Additional Road Financing	\$27,000	\$27,000	
Total Revenue from all sources except property taxes	\$147,381	\$155,005	\$72,646

Town of Benton

Police Department

RR #2, Box 298
Benton, NH 03785

Stefan L. Cimikowski
Chief of Police

Selectmen of Benton

I would like to propose this as my 1997 police budget. I realize that we are a very small town yet I am trying to add necessary items, little by little, to improve my service to our community.

Vehicle reimbursement	\$1,000.00
(\$ 500.00 7/1/97 and \$ 500.00 12/1/97)	

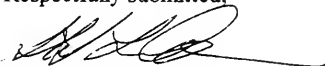
Salary	\$ 50.00
(12/1/97)	

Equipment:	
Winter Coat and Summer rain jacket combo	\$ 180.00
Uniform shirt, pant and hat	\$ 140.00
Repair/Certification of existing equipment	\$ 200.00
Misc (batteries, flares, printing of forms, tool)	\$ 150.00

Training	\$ 200.00
Association dues	\$ 75.00

Total	\$1,995.00
-------	------------

Respectfully submitted,



Stefan L. Cimikowski

TOWN OF BENTON

Summary of Inventory Valuation

Land, Improved and Unimproved:	
Under Current Use - 1,765.3 acres	\$137,410
Ad Valorem Value	840,090
All Other Taxable - 5,498.9 acres	3,308,100

Total of Taxable Land	\$3,445,510
Tax Exempt and Non-taxable Land 24,124.8 acres	
Assessment	\$7,023,230
Housing:	
Residential and Allied Buildings	\$4,628,590
Manufactured Housing	487,950

Total	\$5,116,540
Tax Exempt Buildings	\$584,520
Public Utilities:	
New England Hydro-Transmission	\$1,199,438
New England Power Co.	35,342
New Hampshire Elec. Co-op	330,937

Total	\$1,565,717
Total Assessments:	\$10,134,367
Less Elderly Exemptions (4)	20,000

	\$10,114,367
Tax Rate - 1996	X 21.50

	\$217,459
Plus Inventory Penalties	\$160
Plus Late M.H. moved in	\$127
Less Veteran's Exemptions	\$850
Less Abatements	\$146

Property Tax Warrant	\$216,750

TOWN MEETING
BENTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
March 12, 1996

The annual Benton Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Moderator, Mark Elliott at the Benton Community Building in Benton, New Hampshire. A motion was made by John Elliott to recess the town meeting and open the school meeting.

The meeting resumed at 7:33 p.m.

Article I The following town officers were elected by voice vote:

Town Clerk	Lyn Bandy	1 year term
Treasurer	Paula Boutin	1 year term
Tax Collector	Sharon Edwards	1 year term
Auditor	Richard Dickenson	1 year term
Selectman	Albert Boutin, Jr.	3 year term
Supervisors of the check list	Rich Saffo	3 year term
	Jody Cole	2 year term
Planning Board	Rich Saffo, Sr.	5 year term
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	Joe Boutin, Jr.	1 year term
Ballot Clerk	Aaron Goodwin	1 year term
Ballot Inspector	Kate Goodwin	1 year term
Trustee of Trust Funds	Joe Boutin, Jr.	3 year term

Article II Will the town vote to accept the reports of officers and agents as printed?

The Town voted to accept the reports of officer and agents as printed.

Article III Will the Town vote to discontinue the "so called" Wheeler Rd. (RSA 231:43)?

The Town voted to discontinue the "so called" Wheeler Rd.

Article IV Will the town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$200 for Marty Noble to purchase topsoil, grass seed and fuel for his equipment used for restoration of the High Street Cemetery? The Selectmen recommended this article.

The Town voted to accept this article.

Article V Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$700 to buy a copier, now on a trial basis in the Town Clerk's office? The Selectmen recommended this article.

The Town voted to accept this article.

Article VI Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sums necessary to support a police officer on an "as needed" basis: \$1,500 maximum for start-up expenses, \$1,000 vehicle expenses, plus \$50 for the first year's salary and a raise in our insurance cost of approximately \$1,000? The Selectmen recommended this article.

The Town, through secret ballot, voted to accept this article.

Article VII Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of money of not more than \$130,000 and to authorize the issuance of long term bonds or notes of not more than \$90,000 for the purpose of rebuilding parts of Howe Hill Rd. and/or Tunnel Stream Rd., in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, RSA:ch33, and to authorize the municipal officers to issue or negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate thereon; furthermore to authorize the withdrawal of \$40,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund, created for this purpose? The voters must determine what action shall be taken on any one total proposal of the three tendered, or portion thereof, and to determine the total sum to be raised in excess of the CRF for roads. A 2/3 ballot vote is required. The Selectmen recommended this article.

John Elliott explained the various options that were available to fix the Town Roads. After a discussion, there was a motion to fix Howe Hill Rd. and the second section of Tunnel Stream Rd., with the combined amounts of those projects not to exceed \$70,000. The amount in the Capital Reserve Fund is to be withdrawn and used, and there will be a bond not to exceed \$27,000

A 2/3 ballot vote was required to pass the motion. The motion passed (38 yes votes; 14 no votes, and 1 spoiled ballot).

Article VIII Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 to be added to the CRF for roads? The Selectmen recommended this article.

Lyn Bandy made a motion to add \$5,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund for roads. The Town voted to accept this motion.

Article IX Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$220 to have the Town included in the spring hazardous waste collection by the North Country Council? The Selectmen did not recommend this article.

The motion was made and passed not to accept this article.

- Article X Will the Town vote to have the Road Agent contract put out for bids at least one month prior to the end of the present contract?
- After obtaining legal opinions, the Selectmen informed the Town that Articles 10, 11 and 12 are not legally binding but would only act as suggestions to the Selectmen.**
- After a lengthy discussion, the Moderator, Mark Elliott, stated that since this is not a legal article, it should be passed over. The Town's people had a choice of accepting or rejecting his ruling, but the ruling was accepted as stated.**
- Article XI Will the Town vote to have it's inhabitants vote and act upon the contract bids received for the job of Road Agent? The Selectmen did not recommend this article.
- The Moderator, Mark Elliott, stated that since this is not a legal article, as no sum of money was mentioned in the warrant, it would be passed over.**
- Article XII Will the Town vote to have the Town Clerk post notice of a Town Meeting to act upon contract bids received for the job of Road Agent in at least two local newspapers two weeks prior to meeting?
- The Moderator, Mark Elliott, stated that since this is not a legal article, it would be passed over.**
- Article XIII Will the Town vote to raise a sum to be used for the rental of a place to store sand and/or salt for use on the roads and to determine this monthly or yearly sum? The Selectmen recommended this article.
- The Moderator, Mark Elliott, stated that since this is not a legal article, it would be passed over.**
- Article XIV Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,768, which represents the opening budget? This does not include any special article addressed. The Selectmen recommended this article.
- The Town voted to accept this article.**
- Article XV The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m. All new officers were sworn in at the closing.

A true copy - Attest

**Lyn Bandy, Town Clerk
Benton, New Hampshire**

TOWN OF BENTON
Comparative Statement of Appropriations and Expenditures
for the year ending December 31, 1996

Category	Appropriation	Extra Rev.	Total	Expended	Unexp. Bal	Overdraft
Selection and Expenses	\$1,400		\$1,400	\$1,349	\$51	
Elections and Registrations	\$2,400		\$2,400	\$1,657	\$743	
Financing Administration	\$3,900		\$3,900	\$4,173		\$273
Legal Expenses	\$500		\$500	\$188	\$312	
Planning and Zoning	\$200		\$200		\$200	
Community Building	\$1,800		\$1,800	\$1,837		\$37
Cemeteries	\$550	\$140	\$690	\$533	\$157	
Insurance	\$2,850		\$2,850	\$3,398		\$548
Regional Organizations	\$850		\$850	\$795	\$55	
Police	2550		\$2,550	2544	6	
Fire Protection	\$2,500	\$1,356	\$3,856	\$3,856		
Ambulance Service	\$1,768		\$1,768	\$1,768		
Welfare & Donations	\$1,450		\$1,450	\$950	\$500	
Roads - Flood Repair	10658		\$10,658	10653	5	
Blaktop	6755		\$67,755	67755		
Local	\$35,000	\$66	\$35,066	\$33,825	\$1,241	
To C.R.F. - Road fund	\$5,000		\$5,000	\$5,000		
Interest	\$1,500		\$1,500	\$1,537	\$163	
Totals	\$142,631	\$1,562	\$144,193	\$141,618	\$3,433	\$858
					(\$858)	
				1996 Unexpended Total	\$2,575	

Schedule of Non-Taxable Property

Town of Benton:

High Street Cemetery	0.6 acres	\$1,360
Graveyard Field	1.3 acres	2,950
Mountain View Cemetery	0.9 acres	2,040
East Cemetery, Rte. 116	0.3 acres	680
Old Town Hall Lot, Rte. 116	0.05 acres	110
Tunnel Brook Bridge Corner	0.3 acres	680

North Benton Union Society	0.7 acres	1,590
----------------------------	-----------	-------

Benton Bible Chapel, Parsonage	1.7 acres	55,310
--------------------------------	-----------	--------

Benton Bible Chapel	1.4 acres	130,260
---------------------	-----------	---------

Town Hall, Land & Building	0.2 acres	104,830
Furnishings & Equipment		4,500

State of New Hampshire:

LaBounty Home	0.5 acres	1,140
---------------	-----------	-------

N.H. Home for the Elderly	107.0 acres	202,150
---------------------------	-------------	---------

State Forest Division	401.0 acres	112,280
-----------------------	-------------	---------

United States Dept. of Agriculture:

U.S. Forest Service	23,607.6 acres	6,610,130
	-----	-----

Totals	24,123.6 acres	\$7,209,230
--------	----------------	-------------

TOWN OF BENTON

Report of the Town Clerk - 1996

Motor Vehicle Permits issued:	\$22,579.00
Dog licenses issued:	650.50
Certified copies, record searches, marriage licenses and other fees	353.00
Total	<hr/> \$23,582.50

Submitted to the Treasurer:	
Motor Vehicles	\$22,155.00
Dog fees and fines	620.00
Copies and record search fees	226.00
Total	<hr/> \$23,001.00

Retained by the Town Clerk:	
Motor Vehicle	\$424.00
Dog licenses	30.50
Copies and record search fees	127.00
Total	<hr/> \$581.50
To Balance	\$23,582.50

Notes from the Town Clerk's office

There were 7 Cemetery lots sold during 1996.

Our new copier was used to produce 1020 photocopies during the year for many varied uses by town officers.

We had 82 dogs registered this year, including 3 kennel licenses.

Respectfully submitted,



Lyn Bandy - Town Clerk

=====

NOTE-license dogs by Apr. 30th

IF DOG IS OVER 3 MONTHS OLD

MALE \$9.00	FEMALE \$9.00
NEUTERED MALE \$6.50	SPAYED FEMALE \$6.50
OWNER OVER 65 \$2.00	

\$25.00 Forfeit if not licensed by June 1st. RSA 466:13

IMPORTANT! BE SURE TO BRING RABIES CERTIFICATE.

Licenses available from Lyn Bandy, your Town Clerk

=====

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
For the Municipality of Benton, N.H. Year Ending 12/31/96

Dr.	Levy for 1996	Levy for 1995
<hr/>		
Uncollected taxes - beginning of fiscal year:		
Property Taxes		\$51,628.66
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Taxes Committed in 1996:		
Property Taxes	\$216,895.54	
Yield Taxes	\$10,843.13	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Overpayment:		
Property Taxes	\$0.01	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Interest & costs collected on delinquent taxes		\$3,768.78
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Total Debits	\$227,738.68	\$55,397.44

=====

Cr.	Levy for 1996	Levy for 1995
<hr/>		
Remitted to Treasurer during the fiscal year:		
Property Taxes	\$175,679.93	\$31,590.36
Yield Taxes	\$10,843.13	
Interest & costs		\$3,768.78
Overpayments	\$0.01	
Conversions to lien		\$20,008.20
Inventories		\$30.00
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Abatements made:		
Property Taxes	\$146.00	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Uncollected Taxes - End of Year:		
Property Taxes	\$41,069.66	
Unaccounted for	(\$0.05)	\$0.10
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>		
Total Credits	\$227,738.68	\$55,397.44

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT
For the Municipality of Benton, N.H. Year Ending 12/31/96

Dr.	Levy for 1995	Levy for 1994	Levy for 1993
Balance of unredeemed liens beginning of the fiscal year		\$13,369.90	\$5,351.60
Liens executed during fiscal year	\$22,220.71		
Interest & costs collected after lien executed		\$557.67	\$2,051.08
Total Debits	\$22,220.71	\$13,927.57	\$7,402.68

=====

Cr.	Levy for 1995	Levy for 1994	Levy for 1993
Remitted to Treasurer during the fiscal year			
Redemptions	\$1,738.98	\$7,657.92	\$5,351.60
Int. & costs collected after lien execution		\$557.67	\$2,051.08
Balance of unredeemed liens at the end of fiscal year	\$20,481.73	\$5,711.98	\$0.00
Total Credits	\$22,220.71	\$13,927.57	\$7,402.68

TREASURER'S REPORT

Received from Tax Collector:

Property tax, lien redemption - 1993	\$5,351.60
Interest & costs after lien execution	2051.08

\$7,402.68

Property tax, lien redemption -1994	\$7,657.92
Interest & costs after lien execution	557.67

\$8,215.59

Property tax - 1995	\$51,598.56
Property tax - interest	3381.78
Property tax lien redemption	1738.98
Interest & costs after lien redemption	387.00
Yield taxes	3722.06
Inventory penalties	30.00

\$60,858.38

Property tax - 1996	\$175,639.93
Inventory fees	40.00
Overpayment	0.01

\$175,679.94

Prepaid property tax - 1997	63.77
-----------------------------	-------

Sub-total \$252,220.36

Received form Town Clerk:

Motor Vehicle permits	\$21,945.00
Motor Vehicle transfers	210.00
Dog licenses issued	446.50
Dog penalties & fines	173.50
Marriage licenses	76.00
Vital statistics and record search fees	150.00

\$23,001.00

Received from Selectmen:

Eric Mitchell Associates	\$10.00
Trust Funds - Cemeteries	140.45
Roads	66.39
Building permits	150.00
Pistol permits	50.00
Rent of Town Hall	10.00

Received from Selectmen: (con't)	
Donation for cemetery project	\$100.00
Insurance refund	342.00
Fines, Haverhill Court - Police Account	589.00
Withdrawn from CRF for fires	1,356.00
Transfer to General Acct. from CRF for roads	40,000.00
Transfer to General Acct. from Yield Acct.	13,111.68
Culvert paid for by property owner	149.40
Copies of Zoning & Sub-Div. regulations	15.75
Exchange - copy of checklist	10.00
Cash received for NSF check	103.00
Refund from Gall's (Incorrect price charged)	62.00

	\$56,265.67
Received for State and Federal Sources:	
State of New Hampshire, Revenue Sharing	\$5,690.54
F.E.M.A. - 75% Federal - 25% State	10,658.00
State of New Hampshire, Highway Bloc Grant	9,564.76
Federal Land Entitlement - in lieu of taxes	16,962.00
State of New Hampshire, Room & Meals tax	2,573.98

	\$45,449.28
Received for Woodsville Guaranty Savings Bank:	
T.A.N.	\$40,000.00
T.A.N.	45,000.00
T.A.N. for road re-building project	27,000.00
Interest rebate on early re-payment	208.90

	\$112,208.90
Total receipts - 1996	\$489,145.21
Cash on hand - January 1, 1996	\$70,270.82
	\$559,416.03
Bank interest	\$1,220.56

Sub Total	\$560,636.59
Selectmen's orders	\$490,536.61

Preliminary Balance	\$70,099.98
Bank service charge	0.40
Overdrawn charge & check returned	103.00

	\$69,996.58
Add error in over deposit	5.00
Add uncashed check	98.59

Balance - December 31, 1996	\$70,100.17

Paula E. Boutin - Treasurer of Benton

ROAD REPORT

Our roads saw a lot of changes this last year; all in the way of improvements. The firm of Blacktop Inc. did a great job rebuilding and re-paving Howe Hill and paver shimming Tunnel Brook Rd. We installed 410 ft. of new culvert in various sizes, replacing old rusted pipe and a few cement pipes. We had the shoulders and roads graded by a motorized grader this year. We've made improvements, but still have a long way to go. I hope we continue to add the Capital Reserve Fund for roads so this may be possible.

Respectfully submitted

Dan Elliott - Road Agent

MONTHLY ROAD EXPENDITURES

January	Gen. Maintenance	\$5,475	June	Gen. Maintenance	\$2,590
	(Note - \$1,950 carried over from 1995)				
February	Gen. Maintenance	\$3,754	July	Gen. Maintenance	\$2,320
	F.E.M.A.	\$ 280	August	Gen. Maintenance	\$1,170
March	Gen. Maintenance	\$2,900		F.E.M.A.	\$1,945
	F.E.M.A.	\$ 435	October	Gen. Maintenance	\$1,044.50
April	Gen. Maintenance	\$2,075		F.E.M.A.	\$2,085
	F.E.M.A.	\$1,315	November	Gen. Maintenance	\$3,020
May	Gen. Maintenance	\$1,390	December	Gen. Maintenance	\$2,850
	F.E.M.A.	\$2,180		F.E.M.A.	\$ 315

REPORT OF TOWN FOREST FIRE WARDEN AND STATE FOREST RANGER

To aid your Forest Fire Warden, Fire Department and State Forest Ranger, contact your local Warden or Fire Department to find out if a permit is required before doing any open burning. Violations of RSA 227-L:17, the fire permit law and the other burning laws of the State of New Hampshire are misdemeanors punishable by fines of up to \$2,000 and/or a year in jail. Violators are also liable for all fire suppression costs.

There are ten Forest Rangers who work for the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau. State Forest Rangers are available to assist communities with fire suppression, prevention and training programs as well as the enforcement of forest fire and timber harvest laws. If you have any questions regarding forest fire or timber harvest laws, please call our office at 271-2217.

The State of New Hampshire operates 15 fire towers, 2 mobile patrols and 3 contract aircraft patrols. This early detection and reports from citizens aid in the quick response from local fire departments.

1996 FIRE STATISTICS (Cost Shared)

FIRES REPORTED BY COUNTY

Belknap	6
Carroll	7
Cheshire	13
Coos	10
Grafton	12
Hillsborough	19
Merrimack	14
Rockingham	15
Strafford	5
Sullivan	6

CAUSES OF FIRES REPORTED

Smoking	5
Debris Burning	34
Campfires	16
Power Lines	4
Railroad	2
Equipment Use	1
Lightning	2
Children	22
OHRV	1
Miscellaneous	20

TOTAL FIRES 107

"REMEMBER, ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT FOREST FIRES!"

Stephen M. Kessler - Forest Ranger
William Harris - Forest Fire Warden

DETAILED STATEMENT OF PAYMENTS
by Selectmen

Selectmen:

Salaries	-	Marjorie L. Robitzer	\$500.00
		Stefan L. Cimikowski	300.00
		Albert J. Boutin, Jr.	300.00
Expenses	-	Notices, renew Notary license, up-dated Selectmen's guidebooks	248.50

\$1,348.50

Elections and registration:

Supervisors of the checklist	Sera Harris	\$230.20
	Iona Boutin	119.00
	Kitty Elliott	119.00
	Doris Boutin	95.70
	Zollie Cole	25.50
	Richard Saffo, Jr.	98.45
Ballot Clerk	Kate Goodwin	105.60
Ballot Inspector	Aaron Goodwin	71.60
Moderator	Mark Elliott	139.60
Town Clerk	Lyn Bandy	139.60
Selectmen	John G. Elliott	68.00
	Stefan Cimikowski	102.00
	Albert J. Boutin, Jr.	35.80
	Marjorie L. Robitzer	139.60
Notices & supplies		167.65

\$1,657.30

Financial Administration:

Salaries	-	Treasurer	Paula Boutin	\$300.00
		Tax Collector	Sharon Edwards	300.00
		Town Clerk	Lyn Bandy	300.00
		Auditor	Richard Dickenson	50.00
		Surveyor of Wood & Lumber	Joseph N. Boutin, Jr.	100.00
General Office Expenses				1,271.29
Copy Machine				700.00
Town Clerk Fees				173.00
Dog Officer				98.59
Tax Collector Expenses				880.50

\$4,173.38

Insurance and Bonds:

Franconia Ins. Co., Bonds	\$342.00
N.H. Municipal Association	2,561.00
Liberty Mutual Ins.	750.00
Poulos Insurance	87.00

\$3,740.00

Legal Fees and Damages:	\$187.50
Regional Assns.	No. Country Council \$239.75
	N.H. Town Clerk's Assn. 20.00
	N.H. Municipal Assn. 500.00
	N.H. Assoc. of Assessors 20.00
	N.H. Tax Coll. Assn. 15.00
	<hr/> \$794.75
Fire Protection:	
	Twin State Mutual Aid Assn. \$1,000.00
	Haverhill Cor. Fire Co. 750.00
	N. Haverhill Fire Co. 750.00
	N. Haverhill Fire Co. 1,356.00
	<hr/> \$3,856.00
Roads:	
	Summer maintenance & pre-paving \$9,094.50
	Winter plowing & sanding 19,624.00
	Materials & supplies 5,106.33
	F.E.M.A. 10,653.00
	Blaktop 67,755.00
	<hr/> \$112,232.83
Community Building:	
	NYNEX \$327.08
	Walter Jock Oil Co 727.87
	N.H. Elec. Co-op 512.30
	Sump pump 104.12
	Furnace cleaning 39.00
	Signs 16.57
	New window shades 74.91
	Lumber for repairs 10.50
	Carpet for ramp 24.73
	<hr/> \$1,837.08
Police Account:	
	Salary \$50.00
	Vehicle expense 1,000.00
	Start-up equipment 1,419.33
	State Police Chief's Assn. 75.00
	<hr/> \$2,544.33
Deposited to Capital Reserve Fund for Roads	\$5,000.00
County Tax	\$19,519.00
Abatements & Refunds	\$3,219.63

State of New Hampshire:

Vital records and search fees	\$262.00
Animal Population Control	156.00

	\$418.00

Cemeteries:

William Harris - mowing	\$350.00
Marty Noble - brush cutting, top soil, seeds, fuel, etc.	183.00

	\$533.00

Public Welfare:

Ambulance Service	\$1,767.50
Senior Citizen's Council	175.00
Tri-County Community Action	175.00
White Mountain Mental Health	300.00
North County Home Health	300.00

	\$2,717.50

Taxes brought by the town:

\$22,220.71

Interest on T.A.N.'s

\$1,546.10

Repayments, T.A.N.'s

\$85,000.00

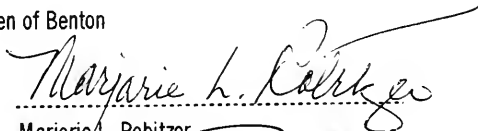
Schools

\$217,991.00


Total Checks written

\$490,536.61

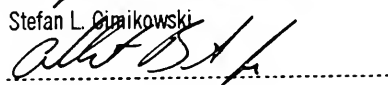
Selectmen of Benton



Marjorie L. Robitzer



Stefan L. Gimaikowski



Albert J. Boutin, Jr.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT

1996 was the year of the ROADS. The large road repair program which was voted upon at the March Town Meeting and scheduled for mid-June made a lot of extra meetings necessary. Many wash-out repairs were on the work list for road shoulders and new and larger culverts had to be installed. We had to separate storm damage which was done in the fall of 1995 and was to be received with the F.E.M.A. grant that we received, and the pre-paving work that we had to do to be sure that the paving was installed under the best circumstances for a long, lasting job.

Dan Elliott, Sam Boutin, Jr. and Stefan Cimikowski met many times with F.E.M.A. officials and BLAKTOP area managers to correlate all the work. John Elliott also attended a lot of these meetings before he left office in March.

We changed our insurance over to N.H. Municipal Assn. in order to obtain reasonable Police coverage. Stefan Cimikowski has been called out on various police business many times in the past year. His prompt attention to calls has been commendable and we hope that the Benton residents appreciate all the hours, day or night, that he has spent on the job. Fines received through his efforts amounted to \$589.00.

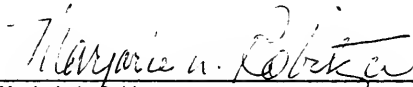
We had a very extensive vandalism spree in the Mt. View Cemetery with much damage to stones. The Selectmen had been given a \$100.00 check from Joanne Smith of Benton for the cemetery, to be used for a "particular purpose", not just added to the Trust Funds. The Selectmen decided that this is an appropriate need and will use that as part of the necessary repairs scheduled for spring.


I hope that everyone notices our freshly painted meeting room at the Town Hall. Sera and Bill Harris bought the paint, with some contributions and lots of participation from our Selectman, Sam Boutin, Jr., who also paid for the spray painting of the ceiling. David Harris did the rest of the painting and several other Harris' and Boutins did a lot of the rest of the work and the clean-up afterwards. The Selectmen paid out of the Community Building account for the new shades. The hall sure does look much better - lighter, brighter and cleaner


Our 911 status is still in mid-air after many meeting with officials and mileage crews. We now have a map which is posted on the blackboard. Houses and numbers are still to be put on and road signs have not been made or installed. We are awaiting the signs from the Town of Haverhill who is providing them at a very low cost.

As for the financial side of things, our school costs actually decreased a bit for the year and we received more money from yield taxes and from the White Mountain National Forest. We also had an unusual increase in valuations from the electric utilities which raised their percentage of our total taxes from 13-3/4% in 1995 to 15-1/2% in 1996. These figures allowed us to lower our tax rate for '96. Money was in short supply by the end of the year but we managed to evade the "overdraft" category and still end the year with no unpaid bills. May we do as well in '97.

Selectmen of Benton


Marjorie L. Robitzer


Stefan Cimikowski


Albert Boutin, Jr.

F.E.M.A. ACCOUNT

This was money that the Selectmen and the Road Agent filed for and received in February 1996. The money was to be used for road clean-up, shoulder repairs and surface re-building for damages that were done by two violent wind and rain storms in October of 1995. This money was 75% Federally funded and 25% State funded.

Amount received	\$10,658
-----------------	----------

Expenditures as follows:

2/7/96 Repair Pages Road, backhoe - 8 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	\$280
3/26/96 Repair Pages Road, backhoe - 6 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	210
3/29/96 Repair shoulders, Howe Hill, backhoe - 5 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	175
3/29/96 Shovel work, 1 man, Howe Hill - 5 hrs. @ \$10/hr.	50
4/30/96 Haul gravel for culvert replacement - 4 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	100
5/1/96 Backhoe - Install culvert & gravel - 6 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	210
5/1/96 Haul off waste 4 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	100
5/2/96 Backhoe - repair shoulders & level gravel, Howe Hill 7 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	245
5/2/96 2 Trucks, haul gravel - 5 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	250
5/2/96 Hand work - 7 hrs. @ \$10/hr.	70
5/3/96 2 Trucks, haul gravel - 4 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	200
5/3/96 Backhoe, repair & level - 4 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	140
6/10/96 Gravel - 7 loads (billing date)	126
5/21/96 2 Trucks - haul gravel - 2 hrs. @ \$25/hr	100
5/22/96 2 Trucks - haul ditch waste - 1 hr. @ \$25/hr.	50
5/23/96 1 Truck - haul gravel & waste - 4 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	100
5/23/96 Hand labor - 4 hrs. @ \$10/hr.	40
5/23/96 Backhoe, level & lower pipes - 8 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	280
5/24/96 1 Truck - haul gravel - 2 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	50
5/24/96 Backhoe - set culverts & level - 6 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	210
5/24/96 Hand labor - 4 hrs. @ \$10/hr.	40
5/28/96 Backhoe - ditches & shoulders - 8 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	280
5/28/96 Truck - haul waste - 8 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	200
5/29/96 Backhoe - ditches & culverts - 6 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	210
5/29/96 Truck - haul waste - 6 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	150
5/30/96 2 Trucks - haul rip-rap - 4 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	200
5/31/96 Backhoe - spread rip-rap - 6 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	210
5/31/96 Hand labor - 6 hrs. @ \$10/hr.	60

7/1/96	Grader rental (Newman lumber) - 9 hrs plus travel	\$1,050
7/31/96	Grader rental (Blaktop) 8 hrs. no travel	600
9/2/96	Gravel & trucking - leveling - So. Benton	1,945
10/11/96	Backhoe - shoulders - Tunnel Br. Rd. - 4 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	140
10/11/96	Hand labor - 2 hrs. @ \$10/hr.	20
10/11/96	Truck - haul gravel - 2 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	50
10/21/96	Repair shoulders, add gravel - Tunnel Br. Rd. & Howe Hill Rd. 9 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	315
10/21/96	Hand labor - 9 hrs. @ \$10/hr.	90
10/22/96	Backhoe - work gravel & shoulders - 8 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	280
10/22/96	2 Trucks - haul gravel & waste - 8 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	400
10/23/96	Truck - haul gravel - 6 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	150
10/23/96	Backhoe - level gravel - 6 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	210
11/1/96	2 Trucks - haul gravel - 5 hrs. @ \$25/hr.	250
11/4/96	Backhoe - level gravel & firm shoulders - 4 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	140
11/4/96	Hand labor - 4 hrs. @ \$10/hr.	40
9/9/96	Blaisdell Sand & Gravel	168
9/19-20/96	Blaisdell Sand & Gravel	154
12/3/96	Backhoe - finish gravel & repair shoulders on Howe Hill Rd. - 5 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	175
12/3/96	Hand labor - 5 hrs. @ \$10/hr.	50
12/6/96	Backhoe - finish gravel & shoulder repairs on Tunnel Br. Rd. - 2 hrs. @ \$35/hr.	70
12/6/96	Hand labor - 2 hrs. @ \$10/hr.	20

Final Total of F.E.M.A. work		\$10,653
Unused balance		\$5

VITAL STATISTICS
TOWN OF BENTON - 1996

BIRTHS

- February 7, 1996 Megan Hillary Allsop at Cottage Hospital, Woodsville, N.H.
Parents are Mark S. and Christine E. Allsop
- September 30, 1996 Louisa Nicole Noble at Cottage Hospital, Woodsville, N.H.
Parents are Martin J. and Alexandria L. Noble
- October 25, 1996 Monica Lynn Elliott at Cottage Hospital, Woodsville, N.H.
Parents are Mark J. and Michelle L. Elliott

MARRIAGES

- September 7, 1996 Richard J. Harris & Kristina K. Ash, Benton residents
Married in Bath, N.H.
- December 30, 1996 Mark T. Smith & Cherl A. Prescott, Benton residents
Married in Benton, N.H.

VITAL STATISTICS (cont'd)

DEATHS

- November 3, 1995 Herbert Allen Leach, a resident of the Glennclyff Home for the Elderly at age 67.
- February 12, 1996 Ruth Chapin, a resident of the Glennclyff Home for the Elderly at age 84.
- March 8, 1996 Yvonne Vallee, a resident of the Glennclyff Home for the Elderly at age 91.
- March 15, 1996 Vincent John McInnes, Sr., a resident of the Glennclyff Home for the Elderly at age 80.
- March 21, 1996 Darrell A. Boutin, son of Paul and Doris Boutin, died at Lebanon, N.H. at age 34.
- July 11, 1996 Celia Cohen, a resident of the Glennclyff Home for the Elderly at age 86.
- July 21, 1996 George Mills, a resident of the Glennclyff Home for the Elderly at age 91.
- November 6, 1996 Helena T. Fox, a resident of the Glennclyff Home for the Elderly at age 87.
- December 11, 1996 Preston H. Hodge, a resident of the Glennclyff Home for the Elderly, died in Lebanon, N.H. at age 82.
- December 30, 1996 Albert D. Colwell, husband of Ellen B. Colwell, died at age 81.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
DISTRICT OFFICERS
SCHOOL BOARD

Veronica Saffo
Laurie Elliott
Marty Noble

Term Expires 1997
Term Expires 1998
Term Expires 1999

OTHER DISTRICT OFFICERS

Mark Elliott

Moderator

Maxine Tyler

Treasurer

Richard Dickenson

Auditor

Lyn Bandy

Clerk

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
Linda J. Nelson

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR
Edward N. Emond

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL WARRANT
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To the Inhabitants of the School District of Benton in the County of Grafton, State of New Hampshire, qualified to vote in district affairs.

You are hereby notified to meet at the Town Hall in said district on the 11th day of March, 1997, at 7:00 o'clock in the afternoon to act upon the following subjects:

- ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year.
- ARTICLE 2: To choose a Clerk for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 3: To choose one Member of the School Board, for a term of three years.
- ARTICLE 4: To choose a Treasurer for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 5: To choose an Auditor for the ensuing year.
- ARTICLE 6: To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen and pass any vote relating thereto.
- ARTICLE 7: To see if the district will vote to set the salaries of school board members at \$150 per year, the school district treasurer at \$100 per year, auditor at \$30 per year, the school district moderator at \$16 per meeting, and the school district clerk at \$16 per meeting. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)
- ARTICLE 8: To see if the school district will vote to raise and appropriate up to \$10,000 to be added to the Benton tuition and education expendable trust fund previously established, with such amounts to be funded from the June 30, 1997 undesignated fund balance over \$15,000. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)
- ARTICLE 9: To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the salaries of school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums as are estimated to be received from the state foundation aid fund together with other income; the school board to certify to the selectmen the balance between the estimated revenue and appropriation, which balance is to be raised by taxes by the town. (The school board recommends \$318,690.00)

ARTICLE 10: To hear reports of Agents, Committees, or Officers chosen
and pass any vote relating thereto.

Given under our hands at said Benton this 3 day of February, 1997.

Laurie Elliott, Chair

Marty Noble

Veronica Saffo
BENTON SCHOOL BOARD

Annual School District
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 12, 1996

- ARTICLE 1: To choose a Moderator for the coming year. Mark Elliott was elected.
- ARTICLE 2: To choose a clerk for the coming year. Lyn Bandy was elected.
- ARTICLE 3: To choose one member of the school board for a term of three years. Martin Noble, for a term of three years, Veronica Saffo, for a term of one year.
- ARTICLE 4: To choose a treasurer for the ensuing year. Maxine Tyler was elected.
- ARTICLE 5: To hear reports of agents, committees or officers chosen, and pass any vote relating thereto. Accepted as written.
- ARTICLE 6: To see if the district will vote to set the salaries of school board members at \$150 per year, the school district treasurer at \$100 per year, auditor at \$30 per year, the school district moderator at \$16 per meeting, and the school district clerk at \$16 per meeting. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)

Accepted as written.

- ARTICLE 7: To see if the school district will vote to create an expendable general trust fund under the provisions of RSA 198:20-c, to be known as the Benton Tuition and Education Expendable Trust Fund, for the purpose of paying the unanticipated cost of educating Benton children who attend schools outside the Benton school district. Furthermore, to name the school board as agents to expend and to raise and appropriate up to \$25,000 to be placed in such fund with such sum to be funded from the June 30, 1996 undesignated fund balance over \$15,000. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)

Accepted as written.

- ARTICLE 8: To see if the district will vote to appropriate \$50.00 to help support, with other school districts, the case of the Claremont School District et al vs. Governor et al, a court challenge to the constitutionality of New Hampshire's method of funding public education through near total reliance on local property taxes. (The school board recommends this appropriation.)

Accepted as written.

- ARTICLE 9: To see what sum of money the district will raise and appropriate for the support of schools, for the salaries of school district officials and agents and for the payment of statutory obligations of the district and to authorize the application against said appropriation of such sums as are estimated to be received from the state foundation aid fund

together with other income; the school board to certify to the selectmen the balance between the estimated revenue and appropriation, which balance is to be raised by taxes by the town.

Scott Roden moved that the district raise and appropriate the sum of \$312,067 for the obligations as set forth in Article 9. The motion passed.

ARTICLE 10: To transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

There was no other business.

Scott Roden moved that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded and passed by a voice vote at 7:32 PM.

Lyn Bandy
Benton School District Clerk

Adjourned to town meeting at 7:33 PM

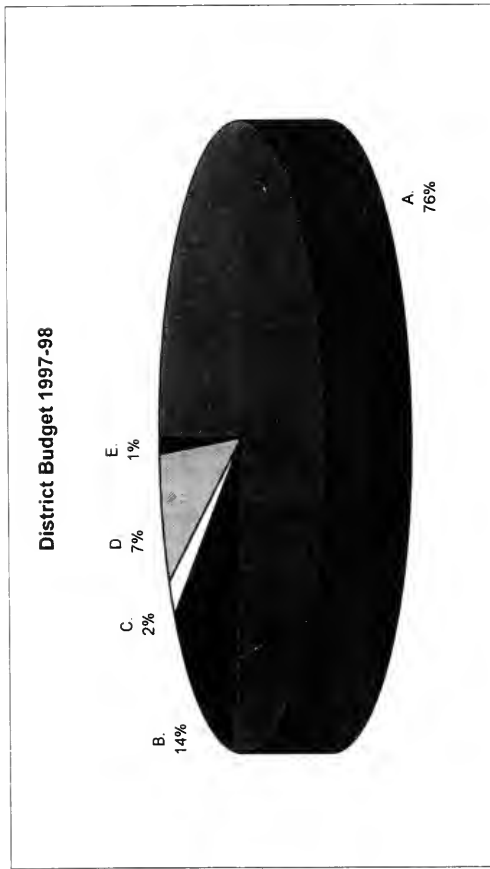
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

<u>DISTRICT SUMMARY</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>Revised</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	
	<u>Instruction</u>	<u>1995-96</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>+/-</u>
			<u>1996-97</u>	<u>1996-97</u>	<u>1997-98</u>	
<u>A.</u>						
	1100 Regular Programs	197,937.76	221,108.00	221,108.00	233,937.00	\$12,829.00
	1300 Vocational Education	3,550.00	10,800.00	10,800.00	11,400.00	\$600.00
	TOTAL INSTRUCTION	201,487.76	231,908.00	231,908.00	245,337.00	\$13,429.00
<u>B.</u>						
	<u>Special Education</u>					
	1200 Special Programs	28,241.03	48,749.00	48,749.00	41,007.00	(\$7,742.00)
	1420 Summer School	247.37	2,125.00	2,125.00	2,265.00	\$140.00
	2150 Speech and Audiology		100.00	100.00	100.00	\$0.00
	2159 Speech - Summer School		75.00	75.00	75.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL SPECIAL EDUCATION	28,488.40	51,049.00	51,049.00	43,447.00	(\$7,602.00)
<u>C.</u>						
	<u>SAU Services</u>					
	2321 Office of the Superintendent	5,794.00	6,296.00	6,296.00	6,007.00	(\$289.00)
	TOTAL SAU SERVICES	5,794.00	6,296.00	6,296.00	6,007.00	(\$289.00)
<u>D.</u>						
	<u>Transportation</u>					
	2552 To and From School	15,213.12	15,699.00	15,699.00	15,699.00	\$0.00
	2553 Handicapped	2,454.40	3,989.00	3,989.00	3,873.00	(\$116.00)
	2558 Summer School Handicapped		200.00	200.00	1,397.00	\$1,197.00
	TOTAL TRANSPORTATION	17,667.52	19,888.00	19,888.00	20,969.00	\$1,081.00
<u>E.</u>						
	<u>School Board</u>					
	2311 School Board	2,912.46	2,738.00	2,738.00	2,738.00	\$0.00
	2313 Treasurer	206.67	123.00	123.00	127.00	\$4.00
	2314 Election and District Meeting	34.44	35.00	35.00	35.00	\$0.00
	2315 Legal Fees	7.50	50.00	50.00	50.00	(\$50.00)
	2317 Audit		30.00	30.00	30.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL SCHOOL BOARD	3,161.07	2,976.00	2,976.00	2,930.00	(\$46.00)

DISTRICT SUMMARY CONTINUED

E Other District Wide Services
 5256 Transfer to Expendable Trust
TOTAL OTHER DISTRICT WIDE

Actual 1995-96	Original Budget 1996-97	Revised Budget 1996-97	Proposed Budget 1997-98	+/-
	25,000.00	25,000.00		(\$25,000.00)
	25,000.00	25,000.00	-	(\$25,000.00)
256,598.75	337,117.00	337,117.00	318,690.00	(18,427.00)
GRAND TOTAL				



	1996-97
A.	\$245,337.00 Instruction
B.	\$43,447.00 Special Ed.
C.	\$6,007.00 SAU Services
D.	\$20,969.00 Transportation
E.	\$2,930.00 School Board
F.	- Other District Wide
	\$318,690.00 TOTAL BUDGET

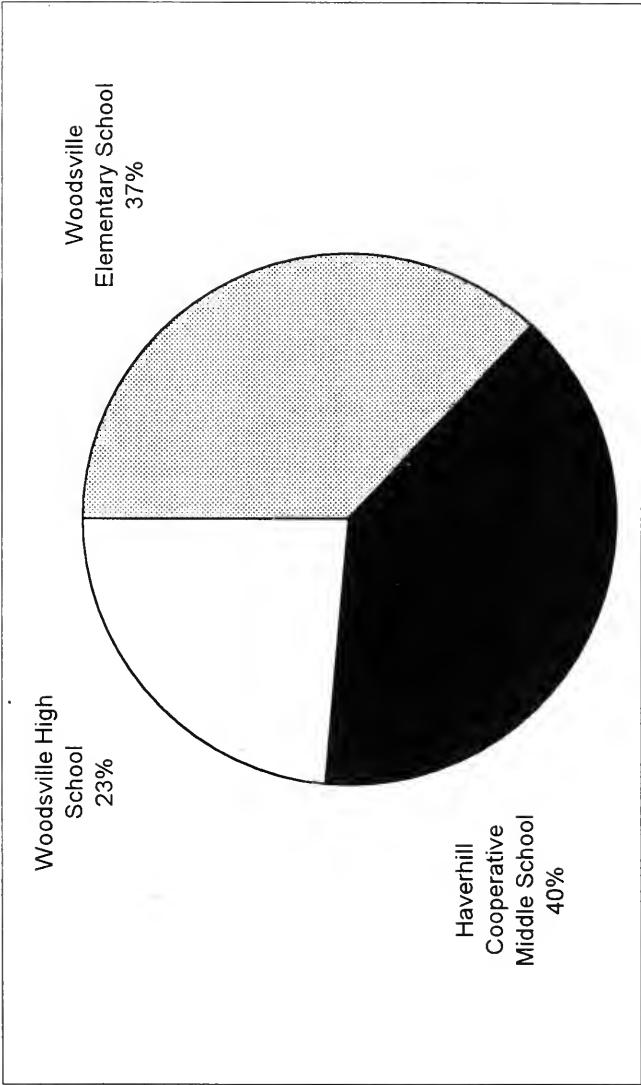
BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
REVENUE

	Budgeted 1996-97	Revised 1996-97	Budgeted 1997-98	+/-
Unreserved Fund Balance	\$15,000.00	\$24,795.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Fund Balance Voted From Surplus	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00		(\$25,000.00)
3000 Revenue From State Sources				
3110 Foundation Aid	\$51,342.00	\$51,342.00	\$66,496.00	\$15,154.00
3221 Vocational School Tuition	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
3222 Vocational School Transportation	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
3240 Catastrophic Aid				
4920 Medicaid	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$4,000.00	(\$4,000.00)
4000 Revenue From Federal Sources				
4810 Forest Reserve	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
1100 Revenue From Local Sources				
1121 Current Appropriations	\$216,325.00	\$206,530.00	\$211,744.00	(\$4,581.00)
1510 Interest	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	\$337,117.00	\$337,117.00	\$318,690.00	(\$18,427.00)
Tax Impact				
1986	22.91			
1987	7.90			
1988	4.89			
1989	7.09 (\$8,436 = \$1.00)			
1990	15.22 (\$8,655 = \$1.00)			
1991	13.19 (\$8,700 = \$1.00)			
1992	16.18 (\$9,160 = \$1.00)			
1993	18.55 (\$9,465 = \$1.00)			
1994	23.51 (\$9,500 = \$1.00)			
1995	22.54 (\$9,936 = \$1.00)			
1996	20.05 (\$10,108 = \$1.00)			
1997 Estimate	20.57 (\$10,108 = \$1.00)			

BENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 1996-97

STUDENTS TUITIONED TO HAVERHILL COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
(as of 2-3-97)

Woodsville Elementary School	16
Haverhill Cooperative Middle School	17
Woodsville High School	10
TOTAL	43



STATEMENT OF REVENUES
For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1996

TAXES

REVENUE FROM LOCAL SOURCES

Account No.

Current Appropriation	224,391.00
Total Taxes	224,391.00
Other LEA within NH	5,100.00
Earnings on Investments	325.51
Other Local Revenue	77.88
Total Other Revenue	<u>403.39</u>
TOTAL LOCAL REVENUE	229,894.39

UNRESTRICTED GRANTS-IN-AID

Foundation Aid	<u>37,571.29</u>
Total Unrestricted Grants-In-Aid	37,571.29

RESTRICTED GRANTS-IN-AID

Vocational Tuition	1,068.75
Vocational Transportation	244.80
Other	<u>10,007.95</u>
Total Restricted Grants-In-Aid	11,321.50

Gas Tax Refund	96.60
TOTAL STATE REVENUE	48,989.39

REVENUE FROM FEDERAL SOURCES

Revenue In Lieu of Taxes	<u>16,573.01</u>
TOTAL FEDERAL REVENUE	16,573.01

TOTAL ALL REVENUE	295,456.79
-------------------	------------

BALANCE SHEET
June 30, 1996

ASSETS

General

Account No.

100 Cash	13,765.93
140 Intergov't Rec.	<u>43,929.55</u>
Total Assets.	57,695.48

LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY

Deferred Revenues	7,900.37
Unreserved Fund Balance	<u>49,795.11</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	57,695.48

REPORT OF SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURER
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF BENTON
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 1995 TO JUNE 30 1996

Cash on Hand July 1, 1995	11,862.13
Received from Selectmen	224,391.00
Revenue from State Sources	49,363.82
Revenue from Federal Sources	15,800.74
Received from Tuitions	11,545.84
Received as income from Trust Funds	77.88
Received from all other Sources	415.11
 TOTAL RECEIPTS	 301,594.39
 TOTAL AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR FISCAL YEAR	 313,456.52
 LESS SCHOOL BOARD ORDERS PAID	 256,628.75
 BALANCE ON HAND JUNE 30, 1996	 56,827.77

July 17, 1996

Maxine Tyler
District Treasurer

This is to certify that we have examined the books, vouchers, bank statements and other financial records of the treasurer of the school district of Benton, NH of which the above is a true summary for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1996 and find them correct in all respects.

August 14, 1996

Richard Dickenson
Auditor

TO THE SCHOOL BOARD AND CITIZENS OF BENTON,
I SUBMIT MY SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

The 1996 year in SAU 23 was a busy one. As Board Chair, Denis Ward led the SAU Board in another careful analysis of the budget, holding the district assessments to within \$1,761 of last year's figures. In doing so, the Board cut one-half of a position in the SAU's Finance Office, a decision supported by the Board in recognition of their investment in new technology for the SAU that will allow for more efficiency in accounting.

Two long time employees left the SAU. Marge Lane married over the summer and took a Kindergarten teaching position in Bradford, moving there with her new husband. Phyllis McKenna joined former colleague Keith Pfeifer who, as Superintendent in Mascoma, offered her a position as Director of Special Education there. In reorganizing the SAU, Pat Amsden became Special Projects Coordinator, working with both the Superintendent and Business Administrator on a variety of administration and finance projects. Donna Hart, first appointed Acting Special Education Director when Phyllis left, was selected as a permanent member of the staff as the Director of Instructional Support Services in charge of Special Needs and Title 1 programs.

Professional development has been a major emphasis this year. Two Math Consultants who have worked with SAU 23 schools in the past will spend a week with us in March, 1997 to work with teachers on math instruction and assessment. Faculty from all SAU 23 schools met four times with Fritz Bell, an educational consultant, learning about Multiple Intelligences and how they apply to instruction and assessment. Teachers are including samples of their applications of Multiple Intelligences learning in the portfolios that they are preparing as a part of the new teacher evaluation plan adopted throughout the SAU. Administrators spent a day with Fritz Bell over the summer in preparation for work with faculty.

The Leadership Team, which includes all Principals, Assistant Principals, the Director of Instructional Support Services and the Superintendent, have invited professionals to meet with them monthly as part of their own professional development. During the current year, we have met with Dr. Todd DiMitchell, a school law professor, and Jim Fitzpatrick, a former principal in Vermont who now consults nationally on establishing positive school climate and culture. Becky Barry, the Coordinator for the Western Grafton County Juvenile Diversion Program has also met with the Leadership Team.

Partnerships with community agencies have been very productive this year. James Graham, President of the Haverhill Economic Coordinating Council, accepted one of New Hampshire's Success by Six Star Awards for HECC's help in establishing an early childhood program in SAU 23. "The White House," as we have informally dubbed the trailer which is located at Woodsville Elementary School, enrolls three and four year olds from around the SAU, with the level of participation from the various districts determined by their SAU apportionment. Sarah Harris, SAU 23's Early Childhood Teacher, has had a very successful beginning year, with 26 students in the pilot program. The SAU 23/Head Start Partnership has allowed Head Start to increase classes from twice per month to twice per week. With assistance from Haverhill's Community Resources Coordinator, Shand Wentworth, SAU 23 and four other pre-school programs published a brochure to inform families of the range of Pre-School options in our area. Benton currently has at least one student in "The White House."

The Haverhill Community Resource Consortium, including SAU 23, received

four years of funding, \$95,000 in year one, to coordinate social services for families in the SAU 23 catchment area. This grant has established a Teen Center in Woodsville, a Haverhill Community Resource Coordinator, and funding in support of a Woodsville office for the Support Center against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault and for Friendship House. Local programs such as these provide valuable help to schools, allowing teachers and principals to refer families for assistance, taking pressure off schools for social programs, allowing us to focus on education.

The Benton School Board added Veronica Saffo this year. She, Laurie Elliott and Marty Noble represent Benton student interests at the SAU level as well as in their quarterly meetings in Benton. They do an excellent job of tracking Benton students work in the Haverhill schools.

This report is prepared during budget season. As District Budget Hearings get underway, it is hard not to say a word about New Hampshire's school finance structure. Yearly, School Boards and communities struggle to provide adequate support for their schools without strapping local taxpayers, many of whom, in SAU 23's region, pay among the highest taxes in the state. Having to make forced choices between local school support and the well-being of property-owning neighbors is very harsh in otherwise closeknit communities. Frankly, we need a better school funding system. That's not going to be in place for this year's round of District Meetings, so I would like to thank, in advance, SAU 23's School Board Members, those who work on the various district budget committees and our community supporters for your tenacity, creativity and patience as we work through this year's school funding challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Nelson
Superintendent

School Administrative Unit #23
Report of the Superintendent's and Business Administrator's
Salaries

Section 5, Chapter 243, Laws of 1953 of the State of New Hampshire requires that school district annual reports show the total amount paid to the Superintendent and Business Administrator.

One-half of the School Administrative Unit expenses is prorated among the several school districts of the Unit on the basis of adjusted valuation. One-half is prorated on the basis of average daily membership in the schools for the previous school year ending June 30. The Superintendent of SAU #23 during the 1996-97 school year will receive a salary of \$62,500.00 prorated among the several school districts. The Business Administrator will receive a salary of \$40,000.00 among the several school districts.

The table below shows the proration of the salary to each school district:

Superintendent's Salary

Bath	\$5,606.25
Benton	1,006.25
Haverhill Cooperative	34,962.50
Monroe	10,737.50
Piermont	5,325.00
Warren	<u>4,862.50</u>
	\$62,500.00

Business Administrator's Salary

Bath	3,588.00
Benton	644.00
Haverhill Cooperative	22,376.00
Monroe	6,872.00
Piermont	3,408.00
Warren	<u>3,112.00</u>
	\$40,000.00

University of New Hampshire -
library

Durham, N.H. 03824